

## THE RECOVERY ACT: MONTANA CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, Weatherization funds are used to accomplish the mission of WAP, *“To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.”*

Over 900 local agencies apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for the families and our country’s dependence on foreign oil.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand the current Program and achieve the purposes set forth in the Act. As a result, here is how Weatherization *Works* for Montana and America!

### What does the Recovery Act mean to Montana?

The Recovery Act will stimulate the state and local economies quickly. Montana is slated to receive over \$877 million to invest in public safety, healthcare, infrastructure, education, and energy projects while also helping to protect essential state services that Montanans rely upon every day.

The **Montana Weatherization Assistance Program (W.A.P.)** directly benefits from the Recovery Act. The State of Montana’s Weatherization budget from the Recovery Act is over \$26 million. These additional funds will make a substantial impact for the state and local weatherization program providers. In the first seven months of 2009, the Montana program:

- created approximately 98 jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- purchased 51 U.S. vehicles.<sup>1</sup>
- purchased 17 trailers.<sup>1</sup>
- purchased 29 blower doors.<sup>1</sup>
- purchased 19 insulation machines.<sup>1</sup>
- purchased 10 infrared (IR) scanners.<sup>1</sup>

### MONTANA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	Total Allocation	Homes Weatherized
DOE Weatherization Recovery Act (ARRA) Funding <sup>2</sup>	\$26.54 million	2,477**
Program Year 2009 <sup>3</sup> (All funding sources except ARRA)	\$12.34 million	1,216
Program Year 2008 <sup>3</sup> (All funding sources)	\$10.31 million	1,742
Program Year 2007 <sup>3</sup> (All funding sources)	\$8.21 million	1,306

### MONTANA WEATHERIZATION FACTS

Average annual energy cost savings per household <sup>4</sup>	\$472
Average space heating savings	30%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested <sup>4</sup>	\$3.70

### How is the Recovery Act Stimulating Montana’s Economy?

Montana’s W.A.P. utilized its funding along with HHS funds to purchase new vehicles, equipment and construct or lease warehouse and office space. These resources were acquired to assist the local agencies to meet their production goals. Also during the last half of 2009, over \$1.448 million in Recovery Act funding was spent on materials and local labor to weatherize 295 homes.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Montana Weatherization Assistance Program Update, January 2010. Some program accomplishments were completed using a combination of Recovery Act and regular grants funds.

<sup>2</sup> The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Total State allocations for 2007, 2008, and 2009 include funding from DOE, LIHEAP, State of Montana, Bonneville Power Administration, and Northwest Energy Funds.

<sup>4</sup> Savings numbers generated by the Montana Weatherization Assistance Program.

\*\* Projected Number of Homes Weatherized. This projection is based on an increased allowable expenditure per home than in previous years.

Recent graduates of one of the EPA/HUD: Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Classes, held at MSU Weatherization Training Center in January 2010.

### Local Job Creation

Numerous Montana companies, organizations and institutions are creating new positions to handle the additional work generated from the Recovery Act. Specifically,

- The State Weatherization Program will hire two additional staff.
- Two Local Furnace Contractors will retain staff and hire two additional people each.
- Two local General Contractors have retained staff and have hired two additional people each.
- An insulation contractor has hired three additional people and has purchased a new vehicle with an insulation blowing machine.

To date, approximately 98 jobs were created, with about 83% of those positions filled.

### What's Next for Montana

Montana has started quickly out of the gate to tackle the added Recovery Act weatherization clients. The local weatherization agencies reported 671 completions for the Third Quarter 2009 (ending June 30, 2009.) This is an increase of 202 completions from the Second Quarter 2009.

In 2010, Montana W.A.P. will focus on expanding **Montana State University Extension (MSU) Weatherization Training Center**. The Training Center has outgrown its current facility and is waiting for authorization to use funding to expand. In the interim, the Training Center is renting alternative space to accommodate the extra trainees and training sessions. The Training Center has also hired two new trainers, including a furnace expert and an Instructional Design Specialist. MSU Extension is also actively trying to fill three new positions within the Training Center. Efforts are also underway to



develop curriculum for an Associates Degree in Weatherization through the MSU Extension and community-based colleges in the state.

Another venture is **Weatherization TV (WXTV)**, a weekly web-based program that will be broadcast nationwide. This show is supported by a grant from the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) and ExxonMobil.

An additional focus for 2010 will be **EPA's Lead; Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program Rule (RRP)**. Starting in April 2010, contractors that perform renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb lead-based paint in pre-1978 homes, schools, and child care facilities must be certified and must follow specific practices to prevent contamination. Contractors are required to have a Certified Renovator on board for each job taking place in a home or facility defined by the rule. The MSU Wx Training Center has been accredited by the EPA to provide their RRP course and certification. The RRP classes began in October 2009 and will continue indefinitely.

### Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process when

necessary. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues not only improves the efficiency of the home, but the overall quality of life for the residents. For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$4.76 to the household and society:

- \$3.70 in reduced energy bills
- \$1.06 in non-energy benefits
  - increased local employment
  - improved housing quality
  - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil. Annually, Weatherization decreases the national consumption by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil.

Weatherization truly works for Montana and America!



For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit:

[www.dphhs.mt.gov/programsservices/energyassistance/index.shtml](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/programsservices/energyassistance/index.shtml)  
[www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization](http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization)  
[www.waptac.org](http://www.waptac.org)

EERE Information Center  
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)  
[www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter](http://www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter)

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